



A STUDY ON SCHOOL DROPOUTS IN THULUKKANKURICHI PANCHAYAT OF VEMBAKKOTTAI BLOCK

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ABSTRACT

Dropout is a widespread occurrence in India's educational system, affecting all levels of education, all parts of the country, and all socioeconomic categories. Dropout rates are significantly higher in educationally underdeveloped states and districts. Nearly sixty years ago, India established a constitutional commitment to provide free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14. Even now, the aim, which was supposed to be fulfilled by 1960, remains elusive. The study's main goals are to determine the type of school dropouts in the study area, determine the reasons for school dropouts in the study area, investigate life style changes following school dropouts, and give valid remedies to the school dropout problem. The research is based on both primary and secondary sources of information. Alamelumangipuram, Keelachathiram, and Thulukkankurichi are the three hamlets that make up Thulukkankurichi Panchayat. The researcher gathered data from 60 dropout school pupils using the snowball sampling technique. According to the findings, school officials should educate children and their parents about the importance of education, and school officials should make special efforts to reach out to slow learners and weak pupils.

KEYWORDS: Population; Inequality; Education; Status of Children; School.

INTRODUCTION:

Dropout is a widespread phenomenon in India's educational system, affecting all levels of education, all regions of the country, and all socioeconomic categories. Dropout rates are significantly higher in educationally underdeveloped states and districts. In India, girls drop out at a higher rate than boys. Children from socially disadvantaged groups, such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, also have greater dropout rates than the general population. There are also regional and geographic inequalities, with children in rural and remote locations being more likely to drop out of school. Failure to graduate high school has negative consequences for people and amplifies existing social and economic inequities.

Educational planners must study and identify the social groups that are more susceptible to dropout and the causes for their dropout in order to reduce waste and increase the efficiency of the educational system. Adolescents dropout not only as a result of poverty and financial constraints, but also as a result of schools failing to respond adequately to their particular educational requirements, pushing them to drop out. The report advises that the state take a holistic approach to the dropout problem, rather than treating it as an isolated issue that can be addressed without regard for the broader socioeconomic context and poor educational delivery in which it is rooted. To address the issue of dropout among children living in slum regions, preventive and restorative measures, briefly discussed, are required. Despite the fact that the study is conducted at the micro level, the analysis provides important policy insights in terms of broader educational policies aiming at promoting educational fairness and quality through the implementation of appropriate interventions for particular groups at the local level.

Every 26 seconds, the American Educational Report reported on school dropouts. Every day, 7000 students drop out of school as a result of one school child discontinuing their education.

Education Status in India:

Nearly sixty years ago, India's Constitution mandated that all children under the age of 14 get free and compulsory education. Even though the target was supposed to be met by 1960, it has yet to be realised. However, recent events have had a considerable impact on the situation, enhancing the prospect of universal basic education becoming a reality in a realistic time frame. Three major elements appear to be influencing the country's elementary education growth trend. Primary education, or elementary education in India, is prioritised by the Indian government till the age of fourteen years. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 also made education free for children aged six to fourteen years or up to class VIII. In India, education is supplied by both the public and commercial sectors, with each having influence and funding. Tamil Nadu has three tiers of government: central, state, and local. The Indian Constitution recognises education as a fundamental right in various articles. To guarantee that children do not work in hazardous conditions, the Indian government has banned child labour.

Tamil Nadu:

A completed primary education is a basic human right in the state of Tamil Nadu, and it is required for the enjoyment of many other rights. It is transforming and

powerful, as well as a means of gaining access to a wide range of economic, social, political, and cultural advantages. By lowering poverty and inequities, education helps to establish more just societies. Without consistent investment in education, no country has ever progressed up the human development ladder. Primary education is a critical component in achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as long-term development. The MDGs aims to achieve universal primary education. Every kid has the right to attend school, yet millions of children are still unable to do so. Universal primary education involves starting school at a young age and working your way through the system. Universal primary education involves enrolling at the appropriate age, moving through the system, and finishing the entire cycle. Over 30 million more youngsters are in school today than at the start of the decade.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

There are many reasons behind the school dropout. If the dropout rate increases it will not only increase the illiterate people in the economy but also it will lead to increase in unwanted social events in the economy. Even though many reasons behind the school dropout discussed by many people and proved by research. The most important them are unwilling to continue their study because of lack of interest; misbehave in the school either with the fellow mates or with the teacher. Firstly, the children dropout from the school either by himself or herself because of lack interest or family problems like poverty, lack support or sudden death of the bread winner of the family. Secondly, the students are dropout due to the punishment given by the school authorities due to their misbehavior. Once we dropout the children from the school, at the younger age they don't have any means and way to get into a better life. Considering the boys, already their character is not good, if we drop them from school, they will become an antisocial element and entered into antisocial activities like theft or he become a rowdy and disturb the society. If we drop out the girls from school due to any reason, they will enter into family life at the early age or having misconduct with others and there is a chance for increase in child sex workers and so on. This will become a very big headache to the society and also for economic development. These reasons stimulated the researcher to undertake a study on the "A Study on School Dropouts in Thulukkankurichi Panchayat of Vembakkottai Block"

OBJECTIVES:

- To identify the nature of school dropouts in the study area
- To find out the reasons behind the school dropouts in the study area
- To study the life style change after school dropouts and
- To provide valid solutions to solve the problem of school dropouts.

METHODOLOGY:

The study is based on both primary and secondary data.

Secondary Data:

The basic information required for the study is to be collected from district educational office, reports and websites.

Primary Data:

Primary data related to the present study is collected from the respondents by adopting a pre determined and pre-tested interview schedule.

Sampling Design:

Thulukkankurichi Panchayat consists of three hamlets namely Alamelumangi puram, Keelachathiram and Thulukkankurichi. By adopting snow ball sampling technique the researcher has collected information from 60 dropout school students.

Tools of Analysis:

- Averages
- Percentages

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

This chapter attempts to show the school dropout of the sample respondents in the study area. This study is focusing the school dropout children in Thulukkankurichi Panchayat. It is essential to evaluate the school dropout condition of the sample respondents. Because, education will play an important role in determining the children.

Sex – Wise Classification of the Respondents:

Table 1 depicts the sex-wise classification of the sample respondents in the study area.

Table 1: Sex – Wise Classification of the Respondents

S. No.	Sex	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	27	45.00
2	Female	33	55.00
Total		60	100

Source: Calculated on the basis of Survey Data

It is inferred from Table One that out of 60 respondents, 27 (45.00 per cent) of them are male and the remaining 33 respondents (55.00 per cent) are female. It is evident that the percentage of female dropout is greater than the male dropout. It is taken into consideration because, it is a danger to the development of the society and the economy.

Age-wise Classification of the Sample Respondents:

Table 2 depicts the classification of the sample respondents on the basis of age-wise

Table 2: Age-wise Classification of the Sample Respondent

Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Below 10	3	5.00
10 - 15	30	50.00
Above 15	27	45.00
Total	60	100

Source: Calculated on the basis of Survey Data

It is understood from Table 2 that out of 60 respondents, 30 (50.00 per cent) respondents are in the age group between 10 and 15. The remaining 27 (45.00 per cent) and three (5.00 per cent) respondents come under the age group of above 15 years and below 10 years respectively.

Community-wise Classification of the Sample Respondent:

Community-wise classification of the sample respondents in the study area is given in Table 3

Table 3: Community-wise Classification of the Sample Respondents

S. No.	Community	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	BC	10	16.70
2	SC	29	48.30
3	MBC	21	35.00
Total		60	100

Source: Calculated on the basis of Survey

It is inferred from Table 3 that out of 60 respondents, 10 (16.70 per cent) of them are belongs to BC and 29 respondents (48.30 per cent) belong to SC. Another 21 respondents (35.00 per cent) come under MBC. It is concluded from this table that, in Thulukkankurichi panchayat SC households are more in number compared to BC and MBC.

Causes for School Dropouts:

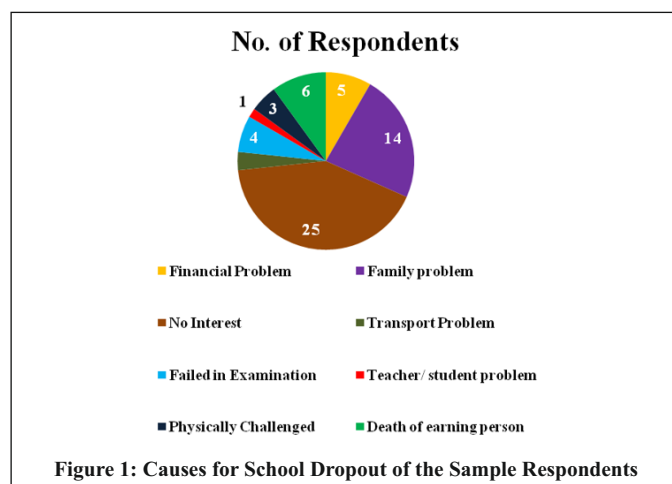
Table 4 shows the reasons behind the school dropout in the study area.

Table 4: Causes for School Dropouts

S. No.	Reasons	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Financial Problem	5	8.3
2	Family problem	14	23.3
3	No Interest	25	41.7
4	Transport Problem	2	3.3
5	Failed in Examination	4	6.7
6	Teacher/student problem	1	1.7
7	Physically Challenged	3	5.0
8	Death of earning person	6	10.0
Total		60	100

Source: Calculated on the basis of Survey

It is clear from Table 4 that out of 60 respondents, 25 (41.70 per cent) respondents opined that no interest among the children to go to school and study in the main reason for school dropout. Another 14 (23.30 per cent) respondents are of the opinion that family problem is the reason behind the school dropouts in the study area. Another five (8.3 per cent), four (6.7 per cent), six (10.0 per cent), three (5.0 per cent), two (3.3 per cent) and one (1.7 per cent) respondents inferred that financial problem, failed in examinations, death of earning members, physically challenged, transport problem and teacher – student problems are the reasons behind the school dropouts. It is concluded from this table that 2/3 rd of opinion falls under no interest and family problem are the major reasons for dropout in the study area.

**Current Status of the Dropouts:**

The researcher wants to know about the current position of the dropout students. Because, it is very much essential to identify whether the dropout students are engaged in any work or they are idle. Accordingly the researcher has collected information, classified and the same is given in Table 5.

Table 5: Current Status of the Dropouts

S. No	Present	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Domestic Work	12	20.00
2	Married	11	18.30
3	Out Side Work	37	61.70
Total		60	100

Source: Calculated on the basis of Survey Data

It is clear from Table 5 that out of 60 respondents, 37 (61.7 per cent) respondents have moved from their nature place to other places and involved in casual work. Another 11 (18.3 per cent) respondents (girls) got married. School dropout is one of the main reasons for child marriage or early marriage. The remaining 12 (20.0 per cent) respondents engaged as casual workers in and around their nature places. School dropout leads to migration of person from one place to another place for seeking employment.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS:

- The analysis on the 60 respondents, 27 (45.00 per cent) of them are male and the remaining 33 respondents (55.00 per cent) are female. It is evident that the percentage of female dropout is greater than the male dropout. It is taken into consideration because; it is a danger to the development of the society and the economy.

- Thirty (50.00 per cent) respondents are in the age group between 10 and 15. . The remaining 27 (45.00 per cent) and three (5.00 per cent) respondents come under the age group of above 15 years and below 10 years respectively
- Ten (16.70 per cent) of them are belongs to BC and 29 respondents (48.30 per cent) belong to SC. Another 21 respondents (35.00 per cent) come under MBC. It is concluded from this table that, in Thulukkankurichi panchayat SC households are more in number compared to BC and MBC.
- Twenty five (41.70 per cent) respondents opined that no interest among the children to go to school and study in the main reason for school dropout. Another 14 (23.30 per cent) respondents are of the opinion that family problem is the reason behind the school dropouts in the study area. Another five (8.3 per cent), four (6.7 per cent), six (10.0 per cent), three (5.0 per cent), two (3.3 per cent) and one (1.7 per cent) respondents inferred that financial problem, failed in examinations, death of earning members, physically challenged, transport problem and teacher – student problems are the reasons behind the school dropouts. It is concluded from this table that 2/3 rd of opinion falls under no interest and family problem are the major reasons for dropout in the study area.
- Thirty seven (61.7 per cent) respondents have moved from their nature place to other places and involved in casual work. Another 11 (18.3 per cent) respondents (girls) got married. School dropout is one of the main reasons for child marriage or early marriage. The remaining 12 (20.0 per cent) respondents engaged as casual workers in and around their nature places. School dropout leads to migration of person from one place to another place for seeking employment.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Awareness on the importance of education should be given by the authorities to the students and their parents
- The school authorities make some special efforts to impact education to the slow learners and weak students
- Adequate amount of transport facilities should be provided by the authorities at least during school hours
- The Government authorities should take effort to appoint adequate number of teachers in school both in rural and in urban areas.
- Teachers should be kind enough to teach the students and don't create fear in the minds of the students on studies.

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